What is claimed is:

1.   1. A system for automatically generating dynamic search abstracts, comprising:

2.   a crawler for crawling documents and acquiring metadata and link information from

3. the documents;

4.   a metadata repository for storing the metadata acquired by the crawler;

5.   a link repository for storing link information acquired by the crawler;

6.   an abstract engine for generating abstracts of the documents from the metadata;

7.   an indexing engine for periodically indexing the metadata and the link information;

8.   a search engine for applying a search query to the metadata indexed by the

9. indexing engine, to generate a preliminary result set containing selected abstracts; and

10.   wherein the search engine inquires if the link repository contains new link

11. information about the preliminary result set, and updates the selected abstracts based

12. on the new link information, if any, to generate the dynamic search abstracts.

1.   2. The system according to claim 1, further including a query transformer, which,

2. when prompted by the search query, applies a query request to the metadata and the

3. link information indexed by the indexing engine.

1.   3. The system according to claim 1, further including a search results transformer

2. that transforms the dynamic search abstracts into a user browsable form.

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1   4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the link repository stores persistent link

2   information and maintains a crawl history.

1   5. The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the selected abstracts

2   includes information gathered from a source other than a candidate page associated

3   with the selected abstract.

1   6. A computer program product for automatically generating dynamic search

2   abstracts, comprising:

3   a crawler for crawling documents and acquiring metadata and link information from

the documents;

4   a metadata repository for storing the metadata acquired by the crawler;

5   a link repository for storing link information acquired by the crawler;

6   an abstract engine for generating abstracts of the documents from the metadata;

7   an indexing engine for periodically indexing the metadata and the link information;

8   a search engine for applying a search query to the metadata indexed by the

9   indexing engine, to generate a preliminary result set containing selected abstracts; and

10

11   wherein the search engine inquires if the link repository contains new link

12   information about the preliminary result set, and updates the selected abstracts based

13   on the new link information, if any, to generate the dynamic search abstracts.

7. The computer program product according to claim 6, further including a query transformer, which, when prompted by the search query, applies a query request to the metadata and the link information indexed by the indexing engine.

8. The computer program product according to claim 6, further including a search results transformer that transforms the dynamic search abstracts into a user browsable form.

9. The computer program product according to claim 6, wherein the link repository stores persistent link information and maintains a crawl history.

10. The computer program product according to claim 6, wherein at least one of the selected abstracts includes information gathered from a source other than a candidate page associated with the selected abstract.

11. A method for automatically generating dynamic search abstracts, comprising:

crawling documents and acquiring metadata and link information from the documents;

storing the metadata acquired by the crawler in a metadata repository ;

storing link information acquired by the crawler in a link repository;

for generating abstracts of the documents from the metadata;

periodically indexing the metadata and the link information;

8   applying a search query to the metadata to generate a preliminary result set

9   containing selected abstracts; and

10   inquiring if the link repository contains new link information about the preliminary

11   result set, and updating the selected abstracts based on the new link information, if any,

12   to generate the dynamic search abstracts.

1   12. The method according to claim 11, wherein updating a selected abstract

2   includes gathering information from a source other than a candidate site associated

3   with the selected abstract.

      13. The method according to claim 11,wherein if the link repository does not contain

    new link information, presenting abstracts previously stored in the link repository.

      14. The method according to claim 11, further including applying a query request to

    the metadata and the link information indexed by the indexing engine.

1   15. The method according to claim 11, further including transforming the dynamic

2   search abstracts into a user browsable form.

1   16. The method according to claim 11, further including storing persistent link

2   information and maintaining a crawl history in the link repository.